

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

WTS-20

January, 1992

Abandonment of Sewerage Facilities

The abandonment of a facility which has been used to collect, treat or dispose of sewage requires:

1. Approval of the Plan of Abandonment by the County Health Agency, where appropriate, or the Nevada Division of Health.
2. Approval of the Plan of Abandonment by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The various categories of facilities are:

A. Sewers

Manholes located in private property or public property will be filled to the surface, properly compacted with earth, sand, gravel or other approved material. The manhole frame and cover will be removed. All sewers shall be capped or plugged at manholes.

B. Septic tanks

(Note: These requirements apply only to septic tanks which have a discharge permit issued by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection)

The influent sewer shall be plugged or capped. All sewage and sludge will be removed from the tank and disposed of in an approved manner. The tank shall be removed or completely filled with compacted earth, sand, gravel or other approved material. The top of the tank shall be adequately removed to insure the tank is completely filled. Dosing tanks and/or distribution boxes shall also be filled or removed. Outlets to the leach field shall be plugged or capped. All monitoring wells shall be abandoned in conformance with the requirements of the Division of Water Resources.

C. Lagoons

The influent sewer shall be plugged or capped. All sewage shall be removed. All equipment and plastic liners shall be removed and disposed of in an approved manner. All monitoring wells shall be abandoned in conformance with the requirements of the Division of Water Resources. All plastic items and other material indicative of sewage shall be removed. For wastewater treatment lagoons of capacity equal to or less than 0.5 mgd and where the system does not include major industries, all sludge shall be removed and/or incorporated into the soil of the lagoon.

If the wastewater treatment lagoon has a capacity of more than 0.5 mgd or the system includes a major industry, then all sludge shall be removed from the site and the soils in the lagoon shall be tested for certain hazardous materials. The materials to be tested for will be established by DEP after consideration of the types of industries which have discharged to the lagoon, past discharge monitoring reports and other relevant information.

D. Pump Stations and Mechanical Plants

The influent sewer shall be capped or plugged. All sewage shall be removed. All tanks shall be removed or completely filled with compacted sand, earth, gravel or other approved material. All piping, buildings, equipment, chemicals, other liquid, spare parts, etc. shall be removed. Piping and equipment may be left in place if buried. Tanks and buildings may remain in place for other uses if they are properly cleaned and retro-fitted so that they are not hazards. All monitoring wells shall be abandoned in conformance with the requirements of the Division of Water Resources. All sludge shall be removed from the site. The effluent sewer shall be removed or plugged.

For mechanical wastewater treatment plants with capacity of more than 0.5 mgd or plants which have received industrial wastewater, the soil in the area of sludge treatment will be tested for hazardous materials. The parameters will be established by DEP after consideration of the types of industries which have discharged to the plant, past discharge monitoring reports and other relevant information.

General:

The purpose of these requirements is to insure that an abandoned facility is not a health hazard or a safety hazard. A Plan of Abandonment should include the following:

1. When the abandonment will occur;
2. How it will occur;
3. How the material, if any, will be disposed;
4. Where the sewage will be treated in the future;
5. What will the site be used for;
6. A list of businesses/industries which discharged to the facility and
7. Who is responsible for the actions of abandonment.

AEM/kb